

CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

- 1 1. A flexible tap apparatus member comprising:
2 a shaft having an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion, said upper shaft
3 portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially smooth
4 surface;
5 wherein said flexible tap apparatus member is arranged and configured to engage
6 tissue.
- 1 2. The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a tip terminating said upper shaft portion.
- 1 3. The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a passage disposed axially into said shaft.
- 1 4. The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 3, wherein said passage extends a
2 portion of the length of the shaft.
- 1 5. The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 3, further comprising:
2 a lateral passage extending laterally from said passage disposed axially into said
3 shaft.

- 1 6. The flexible tap apparatus member of claim 1, further comprising
- 2 a handle arranged and configured to releasably receive said lower shaft portion.

1 7. A flexible tap apparatus system comprising:
2 a first flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
3 a shaft having an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion, said upper
4 shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially
5 smooth surface;
6 wherein said shaft of said first flexible tap apparatus member comprises a
7 first set of dimensions; and
8 a second flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
9 a shaft having an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion, said upper
10 shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially
11 smooth surface;
12 wherein said shaft of said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises
13 a second set of dimensions;
14 wherein said first set of dimensions differs from said second set of dimensions.

1 8. The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, further comprising:
2 a handle arranged and configured to interchangeably receive said first flexible tap
3 apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member.

1 9. The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first
2 flexible tap apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises:
3 a passage disposed axially into said shaft.

1 10. The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 9, wherein said passage disposed
2 axially in said shaft extends a portion of the length of said shaft.

1 11. The flexible tap apparatus system of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first
2 flexible tap apparatus member and said second flexible tap apparatus member comprises:
3 a passage disposed axially into said shaft; and
4 a lateral passage disposed in said shaft extending from said passage disposed
5 axially in said shaft.

1 12. A method of creating a passage in tissue comprising:
2 providing a flexible tap apparatus system comprising:
3 a first flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
4 a shaft having an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion,
5 said upper shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion
6 having a substantially smooth surface;
7 wherein said shaft of said first flexible tap apparatus member
8 comprises a first set of dimensions; and
9 a second flexible tap apparatus member, comprising:
10 a shaft having an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion, said upper
11 shaft portion comprising ridges and said lower shaft portion having a substantially
12 smooth surface;
13 wherein said shaft of said second flexible tap apparatus member
14 comprises a second set of dimensions;
15 wherein said first set of dimensions differs from said second set of dimensions;
16 engaging said first flexible tap apparatus member into the tissue;
17 disengaging said first flexible tap apparatus member from the tissue; and
18 engaging said second flexible tap apparatus member into the tissue.

- 1 13. A method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
2 disposing a guide pin into the tissue;
3 engaging said first flexible tap apparatus member with said guide pin;
4 boring a passage in the tissue with said first flexible tap apparatus member;
5 removing said first flexible tap apparatus member;
6 engaging said second flexible tap apparatus member with said guide pin; and
7 boring into said passage in the tissue with said second flexible tap apparatus
8 member.